

The Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo proudly extols and celebrates the rich history of architecture, arts and culture that makes Western New York home to the work and legacy of such legends as Louise Bethune, Joseph Dart, Frank Lloyd Wright, H.H. Richardson, Frederick Law Olmsted and Louis Sullivan. Recognizing the value of preservation, performance and visitor experiences delivered with authenticity and creative energy, the Community Foundation continues to invest in organizations that strengthen these sectors. Their understanding of the significant economic impact of such inspirational and unique treasures has led to more than doubling their investment in just the last five years. Arts and culture are alive, thriving and attracting international recognition and adding to our quality of life thanks to such sustained support.

It is in making that connection between the past and present that the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo has chosen the Kleinhans Music Hall as the venue for "The Centennials" celebration on Tuesday, September 24. Edward and Mary Seaton Kleinhans left a gift in 1934 directing the Foundation to build "a suitable music hall for the people of Buffalo." The Foundation ensured their vision was realized and now, 80 years later, their gift continues to provide a home for the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, world-class performances and personal milestones. Looking to the future, this celebration will award one million dollars in honor of 12 local change makers who have made a difference in the lives of Western New Yorkers through a community-wide nomination process. As stated by the Foundation's current President and CEO Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker, "The Centennials will celebrate everything we stand for as an organization—focused forward."

Again, I wish to acknowledge, congratulate and praise the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo on their Hundred Years of extraordinary generosity, impressive accomplishments and collaborative engagement that has improved lives and continues to drive positive change throughout Western New York. Their celebration is well-deserved, and we stand ready to work with them as the next century of opportunity and growth begins for The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

HONORING SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS JOHN WESLEY DAHR

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Tenth District of Pennsylvania and a grateful Nation to honor the memory and exceptional service and sacrifice of Specialist Fourth Class John Wesley Dahr of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania. Specialist Dahr earned the Distinguished Service Cross for his unhesitating and selfless bravery in combat during the Vietnam War, and made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of his fellow Soldiers, and for our Nation.

On 8 January 1967, Specialist Dahr was participating in search and destroy missions near Cu Chi with elements of the 25th Infantry Division, when his company was pinned down

by Viet Cong and received heavy incoming fire. Specialist Dahr willingly subjected himself to enemy fire and waded through waist-deep water to aid a wounded comrade. After carrying the wounded Soldier 100 meters to safety, he repeated his heroic actions, rescuing two more Soldiers before returning to the center of the battlefield to combat the enemy.

As he fired upon the Viet Cong, he saw yet another wounded Soldier and ran to his aid. Despite extreme risk to his own life, he stood up in the open to hold the injured warrior above water while he sought help to get them both to safety. Specialist Dahr was mortally wounded during his attempt to rescue a fourth Soldier.

Specialist Dahr's actions set the standard by which all others should be judged. Our Country owes him a debt of eternal gratitude for his extraordinary actions in the line of duty and in the face of terror. Specialist Dahr's tireless, selfless and heroic actions are a credit to himself, his Family, the United States Army and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my votes on the following dates, September 24, 25, and 27, due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" Roll Call No. 541; "yea" Roll Call No. 542; "yea" Roll Call No. 543; "yea" Roll Call No. 544; "nay" Roll Call No. 545; "yea" Roll Call No. 546; "yea" Roll Call No. 547; "yea" Roll Call No. 548; "yea" Roll Call No. 553; "yea" Roll Call No. 554; and "yea" Roll Call No. 555.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY CONSERVATION CORPS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC), now celebrating their 25th anniversary. Founded in 1993, the OCCC provides at-risk and disadvantaged youth a chance to learn valuable skills while giving back to their community. The OCCC is considered a "Second Chance at Success," ultimately ensuring a positive life for our youth.

The OCCC provides youth with a pathway to earning a high-school diploma, via an on-site charter school. By embracing a culture of teamwork and cooperation, the OCCC instills a strong work ethic in our youth, providing experience and job skills that will make them valuable members of our workforce.

Since 1993, OCCC has served more than 8,000 young adults, recycled 9,000 tons of recyclable materials, and planted over 120,000 trees. Preserving our environment empowers our youth, allowing them to help others and positively affect our community. These stu-

dents can develop their educational, professional, and personal skills.

OCCC has provided corpsmembers with more than \$1.5 million in financial assistance. Over 3,000 high school diplomas and job training certificates have been provided to corpsmembers to seek higher education. OCCC's Corps-to-Career Specialist assists students in transitioning from the corps to their future goals by introducing them to local colleges, trade schools, and ROP programs. Corpsmembers learn resume writing, interviewing skills, and a professional demeanor that will prepare them for a bright future.

Today, we celebrate not only 25 years of success for OCCC, but we honor its future. A future that continues to uphold the values of hard-work, teamwork, and service. It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing the Orange County Conservation Corps for their commitment to our youth and our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF FIREFIGHTER STEPHEN ALMEIDA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Mr. Stephen Almeida, a 41-year veteran of the Fairhaven Fire Department.

Stephen began his career in 1978 as a call-firefighter and was later appointed as a full-time firefighter for the town of Fairhaven, where he would serve for the next 32 years as a full-time firefighter. Once a full-time firefighter, Stephen rose quickly in his career. He was elected to the Fire Union's Executive Board, and in a few short years would assume the role of Union President of the Fairhaven Firefighters Association, a position he would hold for the next twenty years.

During Stephen's tenure, the town transferred the ambulance service from within the Police Department over to the Fire Department. As Union President, Stephen worked closely with the town and Fire Chief to ensure this undertaking went smoothly. Embracing a proactive approach to fire safety, Stephen was also heavily involved in Fairhaven's fire prevention program. Going above and beyond his duties to permit and inspect, Stephen also volunteered as the town's Santa Claus, arriving not in a red sleigh but rather a red fire truck.

Stephen attributes much of his passion and success to his mentor, Lt. Earl Faunce, who instilled in Stephen the values and traditions of the Fire Department.

Stephen has been married to his wife Cheryl for 37 years. They have 3 children and 4 grandchildren, and I wish them many years of happiness and more time spent with their family.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Stephen Almeida and his commitment to ensuring the safety of his community. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his hard work and dedication as he celebrates his retirement.